



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"Enriching Lives"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **EP-4**

February 11, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL REDUCTION - 2002 ANNUAL REPORT CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1989 (AB 939)

State law requires each jurisdiction in the State to develop and implement waste reduction programs and to reduce the amount of solid waste sent to landfills by 50 percent for the year 2000 and each year thereafter. Failure to comply may subject the jurisdiction to a penalty of up to \$10,000 per day. To substantiate their compliance with the State mandates and quantify the amount of solid waste reduced, each jurisdiction is required to prepare and submit to the California Integrated Waste Management Board an Annual Report identifying waste reduction programs implemented and the jurisdiction's waste diversion rate. Public Works prepared and forwarded the year 2002 Annual Report (copy attached) for the County's unincorporated areas to the Waste Board on February 2, 2004.

The Report discusses the status of the County's waste reduction and recycling programs as well as other waste diversion efforts to ensure unincorporated area compliance with the State waste reduction mandates. Highlights of the programs are summarized in the Report's transmittal letter to the State which is bound into the front of the Report. Using the State-mandated Disposal Reporting System and Diversion Rate Measurement System, the 2002 diversion rate for the County's unincorporated areas was calculated at 19 percent, which is lower than the 23 percent and 30 percent diversion rate for 2001 and 2000, respectively. As previously documented in the County's 2000 and 2001 Annual Reports and as reported previously to your Board, we believe the County unincorporated area diversion rates that were calculated using the State DRS and DRMS do not reflect the high level of waste diversion programs implemented by the County.

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On October 15, 2002, the Waste Board approved the County's SB 1066 Time Extension request. The Time Extension delays the date by which the County must meet the 50 percent requirement to December 31, 2004. This provides the County time to implement changes to the current solid waste management system in the unincorporated areas of the County. As we reported to your Board in our most recent "Quarterly Status Report on Solid Waste Collection System and AB 939 compliance-SB 1066 Time Extension," dated December 3, 2003, these changes include (a) development and implementation of the Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance, (b) development of a franchise waste and recyclables collection system for County unincorporated areas and revising the County Code to authorize franchising in the County, and (c) implementation of measures to improve the accuracy of the DRS data obtained from landfills in the unincorporated areas through the Conditional Use Permit process. The Time Extension will also allow the Waste Board time to develop and implement regulations at the State level which may help improve the DRS' accuracy. We will continue to work with the Waste Board as they develop these regulations to ensure they address the deficiencies of the system as experienced in the County.

In the meantime, we will keep your Board apprised of the County's efforts to comply with State waste reduction mandates and the effectiveness of our programs.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Don Wolfe, Chief Deputy Director, at (626) 458-4002, or Shari Afshari, Assistant Deputy Director, at (626) 458-3500.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Executive Office